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NEWS AND COMMENTS

The annual spring meeting of the Mississippi valley historical association will be held at Greencastle, Indiana, on April 29, 30, and May 1, DePauw and Purdue universities acting as hosts. The various sessions, as arranged by the program committee, will be devoted each to a special field: one will observe the tercentenary of the landing of the pilgrims, another will deal with the subject of river navigation, another with Lincoln; in addition there will be the customary teachers' session. Among the speakers are to be Messrs. M. M. Quaife, president of the association, D. L. McMurry of the University of Iowa, Jacob P. Dunn of Indianapolis, Howard C. Hill of the University of Chicago, Jesse W. Weik, and Major William C. Cochrane of Cincinnati. Informality is to be the keynote of all the addresses and of the open discussions afterward.

The social features of the meeting are to be given considerable emphasis: the visiting members will find their time outside the meetings filled with receptions, dinners, luncheons, and the like; while a feature will be an automobile trip to Lafayette and thence to the battle ground of Tippecanoe, arranged by Purdue university. The Greencastle golf club has generously offered free use of its course to visiting members who care to play, and automobiles will be provided to carry players to the links, "after the afternoon meetings," the chairman is careful to specify!

With such a list of attractions there should unquestionably be a large attendance and a correspondingly stimulated esprit de corps among Mississippi valley historians.

The Mississippi valley historical association was well represented at the meeting of the American historical association in Cleveland during the Christmas holidays, more than sixty-five members being in attendance. About twenty members of the executive and standing committees met at breakfast on December 29 for an informal discussion of business; later there followed the joint meeting with the American historical association, at which a number of papers were read. At the dinner held on December 30 for the Mississippi valley organization Mr. Albert J. Beveridge as speaker of the evening gave a delightful informal talk, telling how he came to write his biography of John Marshall.

The various states of the union are rapidly organizing the work of collecting their war records. A notable step forward was taken in Sep-

tember, when at a convention in Washington, D. C., a national association was formed to coördinate the work of the state agencies. This organization at once employed Mr. Newton D. Mereness (whose services were loaned for the purpose by the historical agencies of the six states of the Mississippi valley who have for some time past employed him to calendar material in the national archives) to prepare a survey of all the war history material in Washington. A further meeting of the association was held in Cleveland in December, and further plans were made for the future. So far the states most active in the work have been Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, and Wisconsin.

Mr. Robert M. McElroy of Princeton university is preparing an official biography of Grover Cleveland, and asks the readers of the MISSISSIPPI VALLEY HISTORICAL REVIEW to coöperate with him in collecting the correspondence of the former president. As Mr. Cleveland wrote most of his letters in longhand and kept no copies, their collection is a difficult matter, and it seems certain there must be a large amount of material which has not yet been located. Mr. McElroy has already had turned over to him for his use all Mr. Cleveland's known papers, personal as well as public, including the collection from the Library of congress, the letters to Commodore Benedict, the collection of Mrs. Thomas J. Preston, Jr. (formerly Mrs. Grover Cleveland), and a vast assortment of letters from personal friends and political associates. The biography when completed is to be published by Harper brothers.

Mr. William E. Dunn, associate professor of Hispanic American history in the University of Texas, resigned at the end of the fall term to accept the position of editor of the Latin-American section of the *New York Sun*. During the week of January 11-17, he was in Washington acting as secretary for the delegation from Colombia in attendance at the Pan-American financial congress in session in that city.

Mr. Charles W. Hackett was made adjunct professor of Hispanic American history at the University of Texas following Mr. Dunn's resignation.

Mr. E. Merton Coulter, formerly professor of political science and economics at Marietta college, is now associate professor of history at the University of Georgia, Athens.

An elementary course in the study of society is offered by Henry Reed Burch and S. Howard Patterson in *American social problems* (New York: Macmillan company, 1919. 381 p. \$1.20). The authors present

in a well-organized and readable manner an account of the outstanding features of American civilization and social problems. Each chapter is prefaced by a brief outline and followed by questions for discussion, topics for special reports, and references for collateral reading. The book should go far toward meeting the growing demand for material for the elementary study of American social phenomena.

In his volume, *Woodrow Wilson: an interpretation* (Boston: Little, Brown, and company, 1918. 291 p. \$2.00), Mr. A. Maurice Low does not claim to have produced a biography of Mr. Wilson; rather he has made an attempt to give the American people an interpretation of the man as a leader. The book is well worth reading as a clear and forceful presentation of the character of the president and his motives in the war.

The *Indiana magazine of history* for December, 1919, contains an interesting memoir of Colonel Isaac White, an early pioneer of Illinois and Indiana. Typical of the many sidelights it gives on life in the territorial days is the mention made by Colonel White, in a letter to his wife, of several slaves which he owned and also of an indentured servant — this despite the famous antislavery article of the Ordinance of 1787.

A highly profitable program was presented at a meeting of the Indiana history conference held in Indianapolis December 10 and 11, 1919, under the auspices of the Society of Indiana pioneers.

The Minnesota historical society has organized sixty-eight committees in the various counties of the state to gather local material for its war history. An interesting account of all the plans under consideration, including the proposed publication of three volumes of documents, is given in the *Minnesota history bulletin* for August, 1919.

Two documents of more than usual interest are printed in the January issue of *Le bulletin des recherches historiques: a donation à cause de mort* made by the Baron Lahontan in Montreal in 1684, and a "Mémoire sur la partie occidentale du Canada, depuis Michillimakinac jusqu'au fleuve du Mississippi," a manuscript of unknown origin supposed to have been written about 1763 or a little later. It describes the route from Mackinac to the Mississippi via the Fox-Wisconsin route with considerable fullness; a description of the route by way of Chicago is then begun but unfortunately the editor has seen fit to divide the document, so that the remaining and most important part of this description is reserved for the next issue of the magazine. Other articles in the current number give biographical data concerning Jean-Baptiste Couillard de Lespinay, 1657-1735, and the family Gaultier de Varennes.